

Alton Baker Park



Photo by Vera Rogers

Noted for their brilliant spring blooms and fall foliage, the wide variety of trees in Hays Tree Garden have been donated in honor of friends and loved ones as a living legacy. Information: 682-4907



Dedicated in June of 2003, the Alton Baker Park boat launch allows for easy access to the Willamette River for non-motorized craft like drift boats, canoes, kayaks, and rafts. The launch is open during park hours, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Dogs are welcome in the park but please respect wildlife and other park users by keeping them on-leash. Dogs are free to roam without a leash within the fenced dog off-leash area (above) near Autzen Stadium.



The Park Host can assist visitors with directions and information about the park. The non-profit education group Nearby Nature serves as the park host and also offers monthly family Nature Quests, environmental restoration activities, school programs, and summer day camps. Information: 687-9699



Alton Baker Park is Eugene's largest developed park, comprising 402 acres along the north bank of the Willamette River. Throughout the year, the park comes alive with festivals, running and walking races, and community events such as Art & the Vineyard. The eastern section of the park is named Whilamut Natural Area and is dedicated to passive recreation and wildlife habitat protection.

History

Since the mid-19th century, portions of this land have served sequentially as farmland, quarry, landfill, and finally a park. The original 20-acre parcel was purchased by Lane County in 1881, however most of the parkland was acquired by Lane County Parks between 1959 and 1964. Alton F. Baker, co-founder of the Eugene Register Guard, was a great supporter of parks and dreamed of having a large park on the north bank of the Willamette River. The park was dedicated to him in 1967.



Four large picnic shelters constructed in 1978 are available to be rented by the public, either separately or together, for large events. Information: 682-4800



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Legendary long-distance runner Steve Prefontaine encouraged local officials to create a European-style soft surface path for runners in Eugene. Pre's Trail was dedicated in 1975.



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Significant conservation and restoration efforts are focused in the 237-acre Whilamut Natural Area. The name Whilamut is a Kalapuyan word that means "where the river ripples and runs fast." To learn more or get involved, call 682-4800.



Photo by Sam Pozner

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Designed to serve as educational and cultural reference points as well as art objects, 11 "Talking Stones" can be found throughout the Whilamut Natural Area. The stones reintroduce words of the Kalapuya language onto land where the Kalapuya people once hunted, and to waters that carried their canoes.



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In this park you will find wildlife of all kinds such as the great blue heron (above), beavers, dragonflies, turtles, and much more! Please enjoy the views while being respectful of their habitat.



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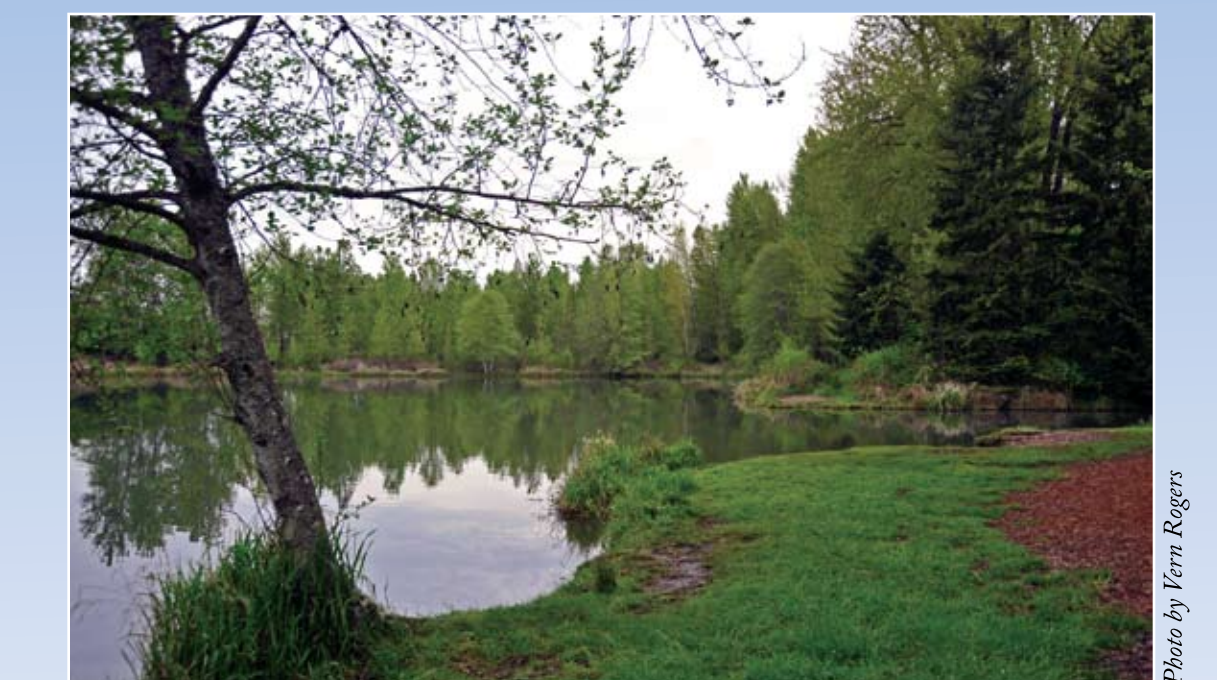


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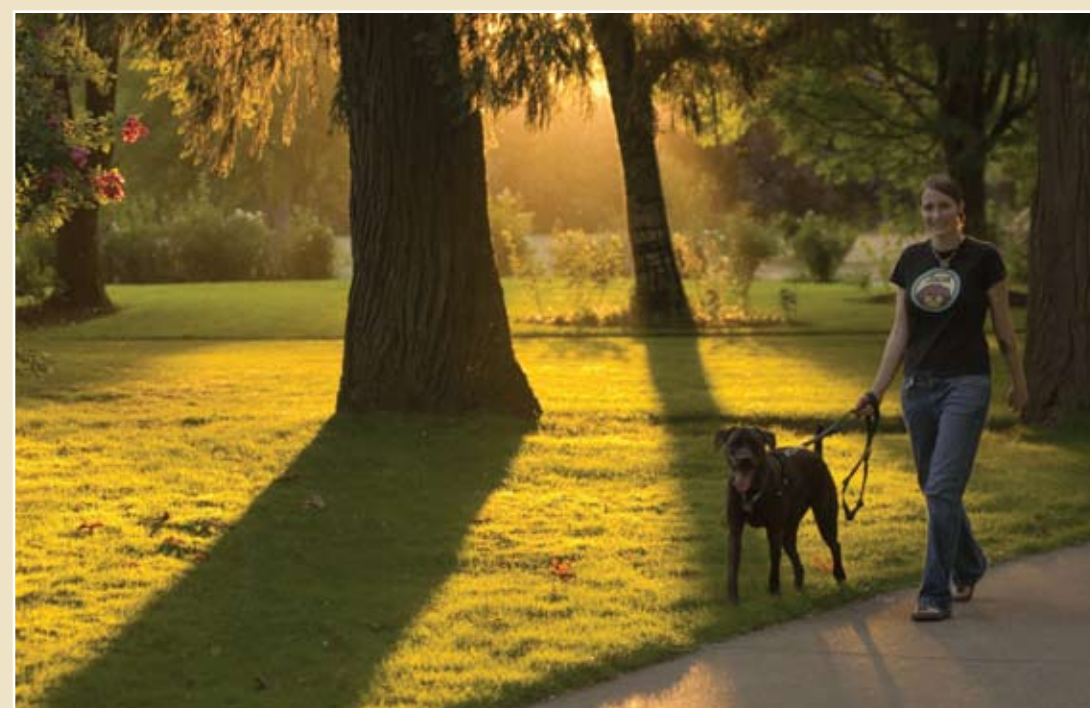


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Photo by Sarah Finney

Garden plots can be rented at the community garden located south of the Cuthbert Amphitheater. With deep-tilled compost in an already rich soil base, the beds offer base bids at each plot, composting, an access road, and gardening beds built for accessibility. For more information about any of Eugene's six community gardens, call 682-4800.



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The 2.25 mile canoe canal provides significant wildlife habitat including a large pond where a variety of waterfowl can be viewed. The canal also offers boating and fishing opportunities, including a weir drop structure popular with kayakers.



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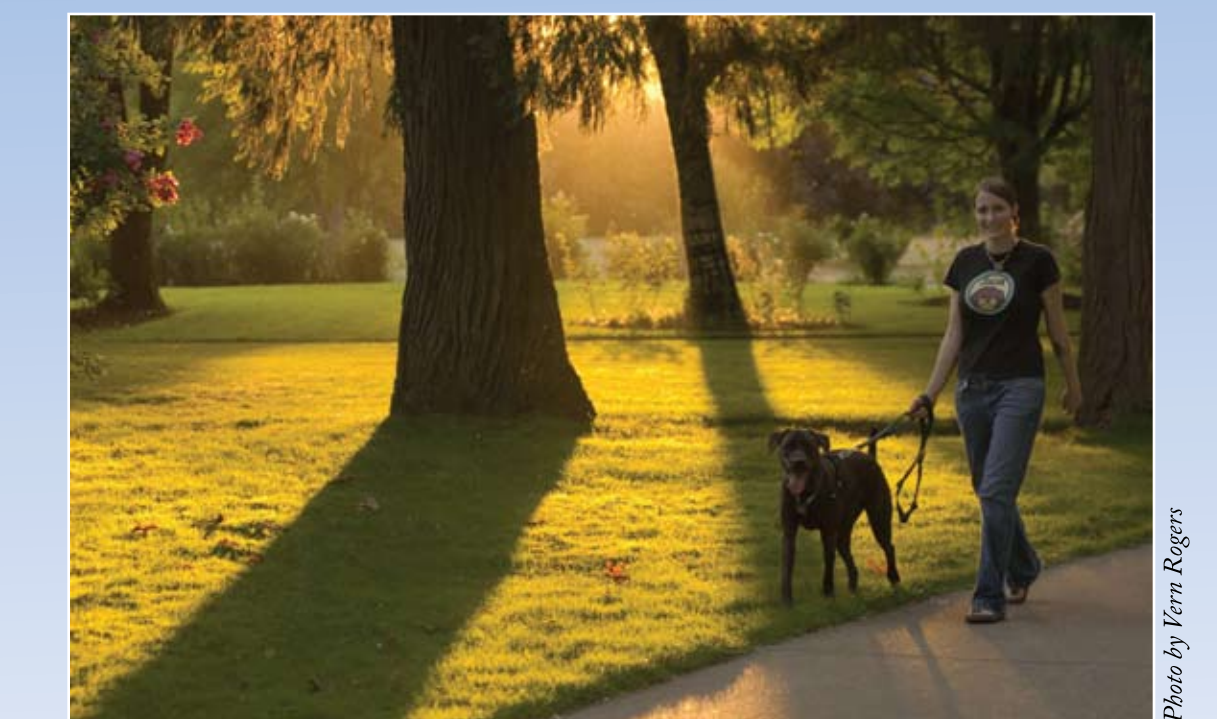
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Significant conservation and restoration efforts are focused in the 237-acre Willamut Natural Area. The name Willamut is a Kalapuyan word that means "where the river ripples and runs fast." To learn more or get involved, call 682-4800.



Photo by Vern Rogers

The 2.25 mile canoe canal provides significant wildlife habitat including a large pond where a variety of waterfowl can be viewed. The canal also offers boating and fishing opportunities, including a weir drop structure popular with kayakers.



Photo by Sam Dutton

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